

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0508

March 19, 2014

Supervisor Jody Noiron
San Bernardino National Forest
602 South Tippecanoe Ave.
San Bernardino, CA 92408

Dear Supervisor Noiron,

As the Representative for California's Eighth District, one of my duties is to act as a liaison between my constituents and federal agencies. I write to you on behalf of constituents in my district who have serious concerns regarding the planned Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) area adjacent to south Phelan. Their primary concern is that the planned west loop of the OHV Area would interrupt the historic Sanford/Mormon Wagon Trail. It is their opinion that this trail, which dates back to the nineteenth century, would be severely damaged by OHV enthusiasts, making it impassable to historians, pedestrians, and horseback riders.

During the comment period, my understanding is that several local constituents submitted a number of appeals asking that the project be reconsidered, but these were rejected by the Forest Service. These constituents feel as though the Forest Service did not adequately consult with local governments and entities during the process and would like continued consideration of their arguments.

I respectfully request that your office continue an open dialogue with local residents who will be impacted by this proposed designation. If necessary, I will facilitate any communications between my constituents and the Forest Service. I hope that we can work together to reach an equitable solution for all parties involved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul Cook", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Col. Paul Cook (Ret.)
Member of Congress
California's 8th Congressional District